

Harrison Co. ATC Celebrates Outstanding Summer Career Camp By Serving 89 Students

“We are excited that a large number of middle school campers responded to our promotional activities for this year's camp. We were in awe that 89 students registered to participate in our *Exploring Technology Camp*.

I am excited that many of the students have expressed a new awareness of career opportunities for themselves that they had not recognized before they spent the week with us. It has been a spark plug for me and my dedicated staff. Their efforts to engage the interest of students, through well designed projects, have captured the spirit of creativity that it takes to spark the inquisitiveness of today's youth.

Each parent has made a special effort to express their appreciation for the enthusiasm that their children have brought home from camp. As a result, our connection with the community has been refueled and reinvigorated.”

**John Hodge, Principal
Harrison Co. ATC**



Harrison Co. ATC Principal John Hodge is a great believer in holding a summer camp to promote career and technical education and knows the value of developing fun and creative activities for middle school students as a way to promote programs offered by the ATC. He also knows this provides his faculty and staff with an opportunity to engage younger students in hands-on activities while learning about technical education skills and careers. His faculty and staff are all believers in the summer camp program too.

During the week of June 26-30, 2006, the Harrison Co. ATC presented the *Exploring Technology Summer Camp* for students entering 6th through 9th grades. The ATC was one of 12 in the KY Tech system of schools to hold a summer career camp – one that hosted 89 students. All camps were funded *with money provided by the federal government through the America's Career Resource Network (ACRN)*.

“The whole purpose of this endeavor is to give these young people a glimpse into career programs and occupations that may interest them in the future,” says Karla Tipton, administrator for the state’s ACRN funds. “The money we provide for the career camps is an effort to lead students down a path from high school to college and/or work. This year, we also wanted to cover gender equity issues and introduce students to the concept of non-traditional careers. We feel as though our efforts have been successful.”

“We are particularly appreciative of the efforts of our ACRN staff in helping us produce this awesome project and feel that this funding will pay many dividends for the future of our school and community,” says Hodge. “And, we were pleased that our OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley was able to make time in his busy schedule to visit our school to observe teachers working with students on their camp activities.”

The following pages are a reflection of the performance, achievement and fun students and teachers had during the 2006 *“Exploring Technology Camp.”*

Automotive Technology

Instructor: Ben Davis

Activities: Safety, tools, using a hammer correctly, balloon cars and electronic cars

“I’ve had a wonderful time working with the kids this week. I let them know right up front that in my class we learn about science, chemistry, physics and math. Then, we will apply what we have talked about,” says Davis. “We want to make what we have learned so it will be a real hands-on activity. I tell these students – I know very few of you will make a living being a mechanic, but the one thing that every one of you will do is drive an automobile - and you need to make good decisions. Having the ability to make good decisions will open many career paths in the automotive industry.”



Mr. Davis and Student Helper Alma Acevedo take a moment to pose with their older students who made the electric cars.



Younger students were given an opportunity to learn a little about problem solving and have fun making balloon cars.



Student Helper Alma Acevedo (far left) and James Sapp (far right) listen as Matt Minix explains to OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley how the electric car works.

“I’ve learned a lot about helping kids and it’s been a joy to be here this week,” says Acevedo.

Says Matt Minix, “We get to do fun stuff and I’m glad I came to this camp.”

“I want to come here when I get in high school,” says James Snapp.

Carpentry

Instructor: Gary Lail

Harrison Co. HS Student Helper: Matthew Brown

Activity: measuring, sawing, fastening and finishing flower boxes.

Photo at right: Harrison Co. High School Senior Matt Brown oversees Jesse Yarnell as he cuts the wood to make a flower box.

“I like helping Mr. Lail because it’s fun to recruit the younger kids,” says Matt. “When they get here, some know a little about carpentry and I like to show them that this is a hands-on experience.”

13-year old Jesse Yarnell had a wonderful time during camp week and said, “I think carpentry is fun and I can give my project to my mom.”





It's time to decorate the completed flower boxes.



“I think that some of these kids get their first chance to do a practical application of concepts they have already learned. That’s when it’s locked into a kid’s memory,” says Carpentry Instructor Gary Lail. “Over the years, we have held several camps and I hope we continue to be able to offer kids an opportunity to attend our career camp.”

Electrical Technology

Instructor: Mike Workman

Activity: wire a switch, light and receptacle

Solder stop light project

“Edison” – a computer program

“We have done two projects in here and had a good group of students this year. My student worker has been a real help and its been good for the kids to see a female doing this type of work,” says Electrical Technology Mike Workman. “This camp has grown over time and the positive feedback we have received from the parents has been great.”

Photo at right: Instructor Mike Workman explains the soldering project to Austin Lail.

“I learned a lot in electricity - like the difference between negative and positive ends of the wire. I’m thinking I’ll be an electrician some day,” says Austin.





Photo at left: Robert Pawley shows OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley how to wire a circuit.

“I was a proponent of operating summer career camps before I visited Harrison Co. I’m even more in favor now that I have been able to observe all of the activities that these teachers have put together. Not only have they taken their respective program and come up with some exciting activities for students, they have tied in math, science and problem solving components,” says Billingsley. “I’m particularly pleased to hear that this camp has grown from 36 students last year to 89 students this year. It’s obvious that we are doing something to entice these students to attend our camp.”



Photo at right: Student Helper Charleen Almeida double checks wiring done by one of the campers.

“I like working with kids. It’s made me consider teaching as a career. I’m glad I could teach them how to wire up a circuit and solder,” says Charleen.

Industrial Maintenance Instructor: Mark Hobbs Activity: Water Rockets

Due to the high level of interest and excitement in water rockets during last year's camp, Industrial Maintenance Technology Instructor Mark Hobbs decided to once again provide campers with an opportunity to use ordinary plastic soft drink bottles to build a high-flying rocket. And, once again, the activity was a major hit with all campers. Not only was it fun, the project was also tied in with an algebra lesson – “tracking trajectories.”

“This camp has allowed us to open up the minds of kids about the Laws of Physics. I wanted them to learn how systems worked together and how people worked together. When I get into class to teach, sometimes these students realize they know more than they think they know. It's satisfying to see them make the connections,” says Hobbs.



Above photo: Susan Darnell, 11 years old, explains to OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley how her rocket works.

“You have to stand 250' from the rocket's baseline to measure how far the rocket goes up. When the rocket is set-up, we count down from 10 and I pull a string that connects the hooks to the bottom of the rocket. The rocket is then launched. The people on the baseline point a degrees gun at the rocket to see the degree of the rocket. They tell the launcher the degrees. We look on a tangent function scale to find the degree. That number is multiplied by 500 and then divided by 2. That's how high the rocket went,” says Susan. “I liked Mr. Hobbs' class because of the math!”



Time to launch - Photos across top from left to right: Photo 1, Susan, Instructor Mark Hobbs and Student Helper Emmett Hobbs get the rocket ready to launch; Photo 2, Susan goes through the countdown; and Photo 3, Susan watches as her rocket soars into the sky.

Photo at right: Patrick Ford aims the “altitude finder” at a rocket.

“To get the degree altitude of the rocket, I aim the model rocket altitude finder at the rocket when it reaches its highest point. Then, I pull the trigger and it will set the degree marker. It’s not hard; you just have to pay attention,” says Patrick. “I’ve enjoyed building stuff at camp this week.”



Information Technology

Instructor: Judy Burns

Activities: Design a CD Cover

Download songs, games, etc. and burn a CD

GPS – scavenger hunt



“The camp is important to us because it gives us a chance to show off our wares to a variety of students. I think it’s important to the kids because it gives them a chance to visualize a future career path.”

Judy Burns, IT instructor

“It’s interesting to learn about the different teachers here and about what we can learn when we get in high school,” says Katie Moore, a Harrison Co. Middle School student. “I like information technology. I learned that welding is actually a fun career and that both boys and girls can weld.”

Photo at left: IT Instructor Judy Burns helps Katie Moore download a game from the Internet.



Photo at left: IT group picture after the GPS (Global Positioning System) scavenger hunt.

Under Burns' direction, students had great success using the GPS hand held units to find separate points during the scavenger hunt. Students have enjoyed the activity and had an opportunity to experience GPS first hand.

Photo at right: OCTE Executive Director David Billingsley gets an Internet lesson from Sarah Nichols.

"I thought there wasn't very many options for careers here, but there really is a lot that you can learn and do here. It's a lot of fun and I want to come here when I'm in high school. I liked machine tool best. It has interesting technology because you work on a computer, then you can see what happens. I also liked seeing how much you can bend something. It was cool," says Nichols.



Machine Tool Technology

Instructor: Hoyt Burns

Activities: Learn how to use Master Cam Program to design something for a metal plate. Use CNC Mill to transfer design to plate.



“The camp exposes middle school kids to something new – it’s almost magical to each of them. They can enjoy a level of practical learning through hands-on activities,” says Machine Tool Technology Instructor Hoyt Burns. “The technology they see here at our school isn’t something they see in the classroom and it’s quite fascinating for them. From a gender equity standpoint, they all leave here with the understanding that we encourage both boys and girls to enroll in our programs.”

Photo: Instructor Hoyt Burns explains to Josh Lambert how to use the Master Cam program as Student Helper Emily Herron watches. Grant Sanders (far back) listens to the directions. Says Herron, “I enjoy teaching kids something they haven’t done before – and they’re getting it from a woman’s perspective. That’s cool.”

“This has been fun. I can’t believe you can type in something and a machine reads the code and does what you tell it to do,” says Josh Lambert. “I put *Green Day* on my plate because it’s my favorite rock band.”



Photo above left: Group photo of students showing off their completed plates. The activity was deemed a success and students enjoyed seeing something created on the computer and transferred to another machine to be made.



Photo above right: Josh Lambert tightens up his plate in the CNC Mill as Instructor Hoyt Burns watches his progress.



Water Quality – Freshwater Stream Sampling and Monitoring Teamwork Instructor Mark Sims



Academic Enrichment Instructor Mark Sims (far left) helps students trap a diverse mixture of macroinvertebrates in the Licking River. In addition to gathering a variety of species, students collected water samples to help them determine water conditions of the river.



Photo at left: Sims and his student campers go through the variety of specimen they caught in the river.

Photo below: It's time to do what kids do best - enjoy the river by taking a swim.



Sims believes it is important for young people to become socially responsible in learning about environmental issues and his love for the outdoors has been the guiding force in developing the water quality session for summer camp.

“I think the camp does a great job in allowing kids to think about careers at an early age – careers that they might not have ever even heard of or thought about. I know that personally I didn’t have any idea of what I wanted to do until I was a junior in college,” says Sims. “I thoroughly enjoy leading this environmental program because kids already have an innate love of nature and being outdoors. From this interest, they begin to understand that they can embark on a career using science.”



Photo above, (l to r): Destiny Browning and Shelby Gibson show off some of the prizes they caught in the river.

“I had the choice to come to this camp or Kid’s College. I made the right choice. I’m having a ball. We caught crayfish, snails, insects and all kinds of things. I’m going to take them home,” says Destiny.

“This camp is awesome. I did this last year and it was great, so I wanted to come back this year. I’m glad they had another camp,” says Shelby.



Harley Cunningham and Megan Hill show off the hard to find “Hellgramite.”

Says Megan, “This is the kind of career I want to do.”

Welding Activities: free form art design and hand print

Instructor: Joe Pawley, Welding

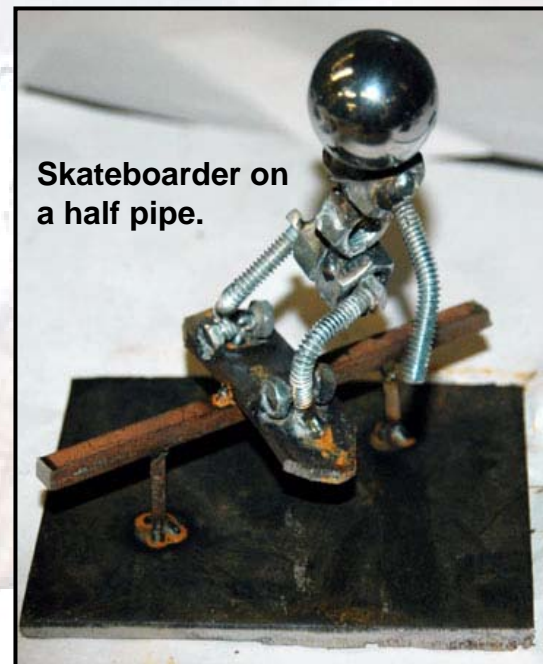
Ed Taylor, Bluegrass Community and Technical College

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning instructor



Student Helper Samantha Weidemer (r) shows OCTE Exec. Dir. David Billingsley how she explains lighting a torch to the students.

“I’ve enjoyed working with the kids and by helping them, it has made me a better welder. Some of the boys have been like – oh my gosh – because a girl has been teaching them instead of a guy. It shows them that girls can do a career that they thought was only for guys.”



“This career camp gives students something worthwhile to do. I wanted welding to be fun, creative and challenging. They have enjoyed making their own art sculpture forms,” says Welding Instructor Joe Pawley. “This camp has exposed students to the different technologies they can learn in various career clusters.”



“It’s very beneficial for the young people and they get a taste of what they can pursue in high school to prepare for a career,” says Harrison Co. H.S. Senior Camp Helper Derrick Knipper. “I have really enjoyed working at this camp and with all the teachers. They all care about helping the kids.”

Photo at left: Austin Quiesenberry, 11, puts his “man fishing” sculpture in the water to cool off.

“I like welding. Mr. Pawley is an awesome teacher and it’s been fun creating ideas of what to weld. I hope to come back to his class next year,” says Austin.

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